

THE GREEN BOOK



BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

PART 1

The solution of the problem of Democracy

PART 2

The solution of the Economic Problem

PART 3

The Social Basis of the Third Universal Theory

In these three volumes the Libyan leader examines the economic, social and political problems confronting the world today, and presents a radical programme for their solution.

The Green Book provides a comprehensive review of the theories on which the Libyan Jamahiriya is based. The proposals put forward by Muammer al Qadhafi are not merely theories but an explanation and insight into the structure and priorities of modern Libya.

Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.

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This report is based on the texts of two public discussions held in London to consider the Green Book by Colonel Muammer Qadhafi. Contributors include: John Cartwright MP, Andrew Faulds MP, David Watkins MP, Dr Timothy Niblock and Dr David Pool.

LIBYAN OIL: Two decades of challenge and change. Four essays tell the story of how Libya took on and defeated the multinational oil companies in order to win back its oil resources for the people of the Jamahiriya.

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Issue No 6 November 1980

IN THE Gulf region of the Arab homeland, the United States is fast reaping the benefits of the conflict between Iraq and Iran. This month's editorial comment looks at how the United States is exploiting the war to escalate American penetration into the Arab homeland, and the threat which this poses to progressive movements committed to Arab nationalism.

LIBERATION: In two special reports, Zeinab Abbas looks at liberation struggles in the Philippines and Western Sahara. Efforts by the Libyan Jamahiriya and the Islamic Conference to settle the conflict between the Marcos regime and the Moro Liberation Front failed in their objectives, and have led to an upsurge in Moro's liberation effort. An exclusive interview with Moro's Nur Misuari appears on pages 11-12. Meanwhile, in Western Sahara, the Polisario struggle against Morocco now threatens the survival of the monarchist regime under King Hassan II. On page 15, Zeinab Abbas looks at recent developments which point to a Polisario victory.

THE GREEN BOOK: Libya has recently hosted an international symposium on philosophy, which looked at the task of creating a world based on human understanding and human values. On page 8, we report Muammer Qadhafi's key-note speech in which he spoke of the need to mobilise human energies to provide and protect human freedom.

ZIONISM AND RACISM: The recent bombing outrage at a synagogue in Paris has been exploited by the Zionists to accuse the Arabs of being behind the incident. Latest reports from Paris suggest that the French authorities now believe that Israeli intelligence was responsible. On page 9, Louis Eaks examines the anti-Arab allegations, and this historic links between Zionism and anti-semitism.

JERUSALEM: On page 10, Dr Alan George looks at the international response to the Zionists' recent actions in declaring Jerusalem as their 'eternal capital', and reports on a recently published book which confirms that the Zionists have no legal rights to any part of the Holy City.

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The Gulf War: The United States reaps the harvest

THE GULF War between two Islamic states appears almost as though it was planned and is being orchestrated by the United States. After several weeks of fighting it is clear that neither Iraq nor Iran will emerge the victor, but both the United States and Israel are reaping the benefits of a conflict which should never have started.

On the military level the United States has been quick to exploit the opportunities made available to Washington to boost her military presence in the region. Although in the presidential elections in the US it is Reagan who is being portrayed as the hawk, which he undoubtedly is, it can hardly be claimed that the Carter administration in the past four years has been pursuing a policy of positive detente. Early proclamations concerning human rights by the Carter administration have, in reality, been abandoned for a global build up of American forces and the introduction of an assertive, even aggressive, foreign policy aimed at intimidating Arab and Third World states.

With the outbreak of Iraq's military adventure into Iran, the United States boosted her military presence in the Indian Ocean, and used the conflict to justify the establishment of new military bases in Oman and Somalia. The war provided a timely pretext for these actions, and has given Washington a further opportunity to strengthen her position against the progressive Arab movement.

Evidence of this comes with the despatch of US AWAC's (E-13A Airborne Warning and Control Aircraft) to Saudi Arabia, which according to intelligence sources quoted in *Strategy Week* are relaying their information to Iraqi combat aircraft. Whatever gesture Carter may be making towards Iran in the hope of securing the release of the American hostages held in Tehran, there is little doubt that US military equipment and expertise is being used in the war against Iran.

This information supports the views expressed by Libya's Muammar Qadhafi in his messages to Saudi King Khaled and other Arab Gulf state leaders during early October. He charged that the existence of the AWACs in the Arabian peninsula represented an 'expansion of the US military presence aimed at colonising the Arab homeland.'

Qadhafi deserves credit for taking the difficult decision to break ranks with a fellow Arab country and publicly declare support for Iran. In the months since the overthrow of the shah and the birth of Iran's Islamic Republic, the country has been subjected to a concerted and determined destabilisation process by the United States. Whatever the wrongs of taking US diplomats hostage, this should not be allowed to overshadow America's long term strategy towards revolutionary Iran.

It is to be wholly deplored that an Arab regime should go to war against the Iranian Revolution, which more than any other force in that region has fought the battle to rid the region of US presence and hegemony.

When considered in the context of the Arab liberation struggle against the Zionists in Palestine, the Gulf War is a tragedy and a crime. The Zionists could not have hoped for greater fortunes. At a time when the world community, notably western Europe, is rapidly becoming alienated from the Zionists, and more understanding of the reality of the

Palestine issue (even though a more positive stance is still required), the Gulf War has acted to divert attention from the central battle for Arab liberation.

Both the United States and the Zionists have been quick to exploit the war in their attempts to divide the Arab world, and thereby weaken the Arab front against the Zionist state in Palestine.

Although the Libyan Jamahiriya, along with Syria and South Yemen, has made clear that it finds no justification for Iraq's attack against Iran, claims that Libya is providing arms to Iran have been denied in Tripoli. Indeed, a Zionist hand in this psychological warfare is quite clear. It was an Israeli radio monitor who was credited with detecting the alleged airlift from the Libyan Jamahiriya to Iran. Yet no supporting evidence has been provided by western intelligence to substantiate the Zionist claim so rapidly given credence in the western media. However, Ian Mather, Defence Correspondent of *The Observer* in London pointed out on 12th October that the Zionist reports were indeed puzzling 'since Libya and Syria possess mostly Soviet arms and Russian ammunition' which, he said, 'would be useless in Iran's American-made weapons.'

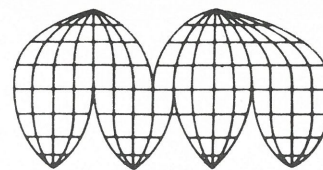
The Zionists are further exploiting the war to escalate their war against Lebanon, where near daily bombing raids on villages and refugee camps in the southern region of the country have reached the point of virtual full-scale war, shielded from international attention only by the war in the Gulf. Under the cover of the Iraq-Iran conflict Israel has become so emboldened as to extend Zionist bombing raids as far north as Beirut. Such Zionist actions make all the more pertinent Muammar Qadhafi's earlier speeches deploring the embattled Arab state in Lebanon. Instead, today, all Arab eyes appear focused on the Gulf, and Arab arms are directed against the Iranians, whose support for the Palestinian struggle cannot be disputed.

Israel's assaults on Lebanon have, of course, been made possible by the weakening of Arab ranks by the surrender of the Sadat regime, and its alliance with the United States and Israel bonded in the Camp David accords. The Zionists are ruthlessly exploiting the current Arab weakness resulting from the elimination of the Egyptian forces from the liberation effort.

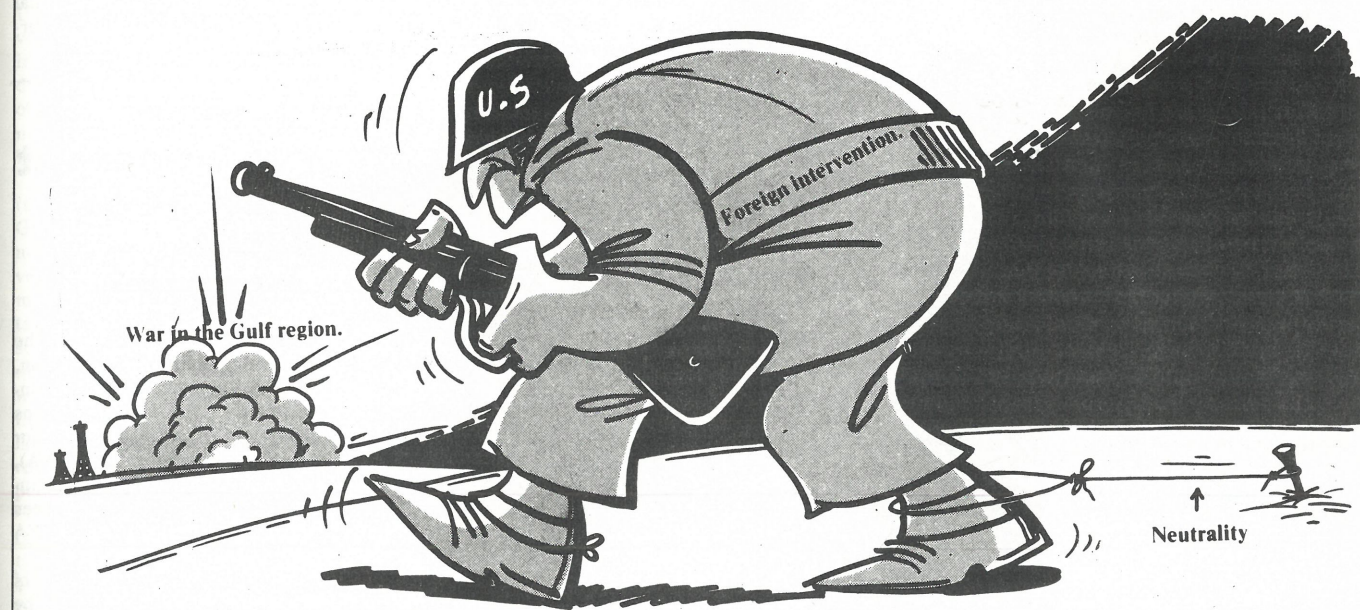
Indeed, the past year has seen a consolidation of American presence in the Arab region. The Camp David accords laid the foundations for this American offensive, the Soviet presence in Afghanistan was ruthlessly exploited by the US not for the benefit of the Afghan people but for US interests, and, today, so too is the Gulf War.

Contrary to western assertions, the ties between Libya and the Soviet Union are not on an ideological basis. But given the real threat which the United States poses to the Libyan Jamahiriya and the Arab homeland as a whole, the backing of another super-power is clearly needed to maintain a balance in the region. The goal of the Libyan Revolution, however, remains based on the principle that the Arab homeland should be positively non-aligned, and free from all foreign military bases and politico-economic subservience. Whatever ideological differences exist between the East and the West, the Arab homeland should not be forced to become the battlefield.

A monthly
review of
Libyan, Islamic
and Third World
affairs



PANORAMA
news review



Qadhafi speaks out on US build up in Arab region

IN TWO important messages, the first to President Carter and the Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan, and the second to Saudi Arabia's King Khaled and Arab Gulf state leaders, Colonel Qadhafi has voiced the widespread concern at the United States military build-up in the Arab region.

The build-up of American forces in the region comes as part of Washington's decision to play a more assertive foreign policy in the Middle East. However, the Iraq-Iran war has been exploited by the United States to further boost its military capability in the area.

The twofold concern of Muammar Qadhafi is shared by many Arab commentators, and reflects the feelings of the Third World nations in general. The Arabs are alarmed at the increasing prospect that the Middle East should become a battleground between the two major super powers, much of the blame for which lies with the Americans in over-riding the wishes of the non-aligned nations to be truly non-aligned and in seeking to

involve such countries in the United States' battle for influence against the Soviet Union. In addition, there is the view that Washington will use its local military presence in the Middle East to suppress progressive movements dedicated to greater social justice and democracy.

As a result, Muammar Qadhafi has strongly condemned the American decision to despatch the AWACs early-warning aircraft to Saudi Arabia, and made clear Libyan opposition to the move in a message to King Khaled and other Arab Gulf states leaders.

In his message, released by JANA on 11th October, Qadhafi saw the American move as part of Washington's efforts to impose the Camp David alliance between Carter, Beigun and Sadat on the wider Arab homeland.

The Libyan leader also rejected Arab support for Iraq in her conflict with Iran. It was a Muslim duty, said Qadhafi, to support Islamic Iran instead of fighting the Iranians on behalf of the United States.

In both messages Colonel Qadhafi reiterated the Libyan Jamahiriya's firm opposition to US military bases being established in Oman and Somalia. The presence of American forces on Arab soil, Qadhafi told Carter and Reagan, makes it necessary for the Arabs to consider armed

confrontation with the United States rather than friendly initiatives in the interests of world peace.

Reviewing American policy in the Middle East, Qadhafi made several demands of the United States: 'It should withdraw its bases from Masirah island (off Oman), from Muscat and Oman and from Somalia. It should withdraw its planes for monitoring and early warning from Saudi Arabia, and end its occupation of Egypt and move its naval and air concentrations from the Libyan Arab frontier in the Mediterranean.'

Revolutionary Committees take over Libyan media

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya's media and information services are now being directed by the Jamahiriya's revolutionary committees following moves on 7th October to implement the earlier proposal made by Colonel Qadhafi that if the media were to truly reflect the views of the Revolution then it must be controlled by the revolutionary committees.

The moves affect broadcasting, the press, JANA, the Jamahiriya

News Agency, external information, presses, cultural centres, publication, advertising and distribution, the theatre, cinema and information programmes.

Outlining their view of the role which the media services should play in a revolutionary society, a statement issued on behalf of the committees said that the media must be an instrument to incite the citizens to assume the responsibilities now available to them in the democracy based on people's power established in the Jamahiriya.

The statement also expressed opposition to the role of the international and foreign press, which it said is controlled by governments, political parties, and individuals to propagate their own opinions, or operated as purely commercial enterprises for profit.

The move is part of a wider ranging programme in the Libyan Jamahiriya to bring all sectors of society under the democratic control of the citizens, and to break down the traditional power of such groups as businessmen and capitalists, and the civil service bureaucracy. Membership of the revolutionary committees, whose task is to explain the ideology and philosophy of the Al Fateh Revolution, is open to all citizens who hold the ideals of the Revolution.

US-Israeli complicity in South African nuclear test

THE SUSPECTED South African nuclear test explosion over the South Atlantic last September was probably an extended range nuclear shell, fired from a howitzer gun on a warship, a programme by the British television company Granada claimed on 20th October.

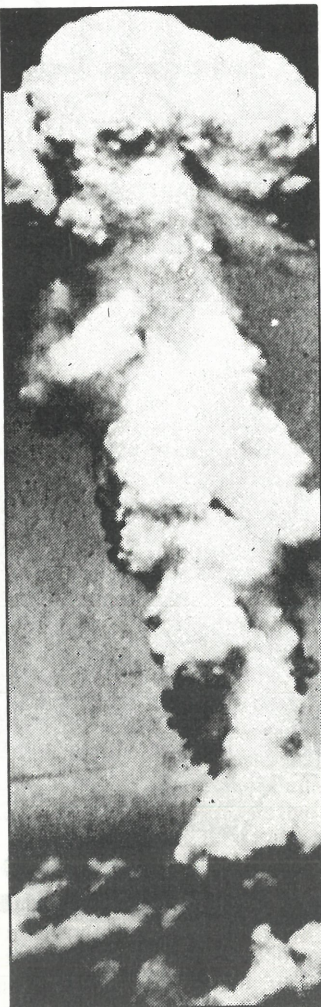
Designed in America, some shell components were smuggled into South Africa with the tacit assistance of American officials and under the cover of a subsidiary of the British company Trafalgar House, the programme said. It added further circumstantial evidence to the suggestion that the test was undertaken with the help of Israel.

The mystery of the 22nd September explosion, about 26,000 feet above the sea, has publicly divided the American scientific and military community. A White House inquiry reported that it was probably caused by a small meteoroid striking the surface of the satellite which detected the blast. However, defence intelligence and CIA analysts have decided that it was a nuclear test.

In support of this the television programme gave further details about the way in which a private American company called Space Research shipped out the shells to South Africa. Although Space Research at one time worked on Pentagon contracts for the components of nuclear shells, the programme was inconclusive about whether the nuclear technology was also exported in this way.

Granada Television claims that the deal was set up originally by the CIA in an attempt to give South Africa military superiority in the 1975 war with Angola. The Pentagon and the State Department turned a blind eye. Permission was given for the shells to be forged at an American Army munitions plant, ostensibly for a contract with Israel, which was already buying the shells. Then the United States Office of Munitions Control allowed the castings to be moved to Canada without a licence. From there, they were shipped to South Africa by way of the Caribbean and Spain.

The programme revealed that further components were shipped to Cementation Engineering, a South African subsidiary of Cementation Africa which, in turn, is controlled by the British based multinational Trafalgar House company. The activities of subsidiaries are not technically covered by the United Nations



embargo on arms to South Africa.

The programme pointed to two elements of Israeli involvement. A partially state-owned company, Israeli Military Industries, has supplied South Africa with propelling charges for the shells and a 1977 memorandum between IMI and Space Research shows that Israel was given the right to manufacture shells. Only the question of how the nuclear technology was obtained remains a mystery, although with Israeli and West German technical help it is well-known that South Africa can now make weapon grade enriched uranium. In recent years Israel and South Africa have forged an alliance which includes co-operation agreements on military matters. Israel is known to have developed its own nuclear weapons.

Moves to expel Israel from UN

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya on 6th October called for the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations. Libyan delegate Ali Sunni Muntasser, Vice-Chairman of the Libyan delegation, told the General Assembly that the United Nations should issue sanctions against Israel for not complying with UN resolutions. He also

demanding that Israel be expelled from the international body, joining a similar call made by Syria on the last day of September.

In a related move, the members of the Islamic Conference Organisation on 7th October registered a formal reservation about the credentials of the Israeli delegation to the General Assembly. They said the delegation represented 'a government that has, in flagrant violation of international law and in total defiance of the relevant UN resolutions, declared the Holy City of Jerusalem as its capital.'

The move reportedly did not amount to a challenge that would be pressed to a vote in the near future, but action might be taken at a later date. The reservation was expressed in a letter to Assembly President Ruediger von Wechmar of West Germany by Ambassador Niaz Naik of Pakistan, current Chairman of the 40-member Islamic Conference.

The letter said: 'The participation of the delegation of Israel in the work of the General Assembly in any form shall be without prejudice to the specific status of the Holy City of Jerusalem and to any such measures as may be taken by the UN General Assembly or the Security Council towards seeking the implementation of their resolutions on the questions of Palestine and Jerusalem.'

Celebrations mark evacuation of Italian settlers

THE EVACUATION of Italian colonial settlers from Libya was marked in the Jamahiriya on 7th October with rallies throughout the country. As a mass rally in Brak al Shatee, the Libyan revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi said the victory of the Libyan people in freeing their country from colonial control, at the end of a resistance struggle over several decades, should be an example to both present and future generations.

Italy's colonial record in Libya was one of the most savage in human history. Almost half the population perished in massacres and concentration camps. At the time of the Libyan Revolution in 1969, although the political administration of the country was closely controlled by Britain and the United States, the Italian settler community still controlled much of the arable land and the country's commerce.

Qadhafi drew a parallel between those Libyan sheikhs who had collaborated with the Italians against their fellow

countrymen, and the situation prevailing in the Arab homeland today where certain leaders put American and foreign interests above those of the Arab peoples. He predicted that the United States would follow the path of decline from a major power just as Italy had done earlier.

Brother Qadhafi renewed his call for all Libyans, both male and female, to be trained in arms and defence to ensure that Libya never again falls under colonial rule or to foreign military intervention.

Palestine: Warning against reduction of UNRWA programme

SUBMITTING HIS report to the UN Special Political Commission, Mr Olaf Rydbeck, General Commissioner of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), has drawn the participants' attention to the serious consequences of a reduction in the UNRWA education programme.

Pointing out that thousands of young Palestinians would be deprived of the possibility of receiving education and that Palestinian teachers would become jobless, Mr Rydbeck asserted that the repercussions of such an action would be contrary to humanitarian considerations and may even cast a shadow over stability in the area. Referring to the very serious financial problems faced by UNRWA, the General Commissioner suggested that the financing responsibility should be borne by the whole international community and that the work of the agency should be shared out between UN member states. UNRWA, he said, had initially been created for two or three years and now in 1980 it had been going for 31 years, and the situation in the Middle East 'has not yet found a just and lasting solution'.

Libyan Hajj pilgrims up 21 per cent

SAUDI ARABIA announced on 16th October that 812,892 Muslims performing the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina had so far arrived from abroad this year, a six per cent decrease on the figure for last year. Libyan pilgrims, however, recorded an increase of 21 per cent. There were 42,757 pilgrims from the Jamahiriya, an increase of 7,410 over last year.

UNIDO condemns Israeli obstructionism

ISRAELI OCCUPATION authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have blocked six out of seven UNIDO projects of technical assistance to the Palestinians, according to a report from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. Developing country and socialist bloc delegates to an October meeting of UNIDO's industrial development board strongly condemned Israel's non-cooperation.

Speaking for the Group of 77 (the developing countries), Ahmad Ghazal of Tunisia stressed the need for the UN Industrial Development Organisation to implement board decisions on assistance to the Palestinians as soon as possible. He also recommended that the board should work in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Zionist representative said that his government had denied UNIDO officials access to the 1967 occupied territories because the projects had been drawn up in co-operation with the PLO. The PLO delegate Ghazi Hussein, condemned this as a violation of international law and of the UN Charter. He charged Israel with sabotage of economic development and deliberate efforts to impede improvement in Palestinians' living standards.

Union with Syria gets General People's Congress backing

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya General People's Congress has formally given its support to the union between Libya and Syria, and in a related declaration aimed at underlining the Jamahiriya's commitment to Arab unity, the Congress also announced Libya's borders open to all Arabs.

The call made by the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi in his 1st September speech, marking the eleventh anniversary of the Libyan Revolution, for the Jamahiriya to forge a union with Syria has now been approved by the General People's Congress, the country's supreme policy-making body. Throughout September meetings of the local basic people's congress were convened throughout the Jamahiriya to provide the forum in



Jamahiriya responds to Algeria's human tragedy

Libyan aid for Algerian earthquake victims

IN ONE of the worst natural disasters this century, the western Algerian city of El Asnam and a large surrounding area were devastated by a severe earthquake on 10th October. Ten days later, the Algerian government announced that the provisional totals of casualties stood at 2,325 dead, 7,725 injured and 331,216 made homeless. This was apart from those killed who had been buried under the piles of rubble and those injured who had not yet received medical attention. In El Asnam itself the toll was put at 1,452 killed, 4,317 injured and 148,000 homeless.

which all Libyan citizens can discuss policy issues. The decisions of these local bodies are then voiced in the General People's Congress, which concluded its extraordinary session in Tripoli on 28th September.

The extraordinary session adopted a resolution stating: 'A merger shall be established between the Libyan Arab people and the Syrian Arab people, provided that authority be vested in the people and no authority be vested in the states; the merger

The disaster prompted a massive international relief operation, in which the Libyan Jamahiriya has played a prominent part. A Libyan medical team left for Algiers on 11th October, to be followed by blankets, tents and medical and food supplies. And the most spectacular cash aid offered by any country was a promise of \$10 million from the Jamahiriya. In Libya, meanwhile, a seven-day period of mourning was declared for those killed in the earthquake.

In another development, it was reported on 17th October that the Libyan Jamahiriya had donated \$1 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross. A further \$300,000 was given to set up a special fund to finance the committee's humanitarian activities. The sums were presented with Libya's annual contribution to the ICRC's budget.

shall be the nucleus for an overall Arab unity and for the establishment of the Jamahiri Arab Socialist free and united society in all Arab lands, with authority in it vested in the people.'

The General People's Congress also declared that henceforth, the Libyan Jamahiriya shall be considered a frontline state, with all its resources at the disposal of the battle against the Zionists in Palestine.

On the question of nationality, the special session of the General

People's Congress decided that 'The borders of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (SPLAJ) shall be open to all Arabs. The SPLAJ land shall be the land of all Arabs. Arab nationality shall be the nationality of all the inhabitants of the SPLAJ and dual nationality shall be abolished.'

Peking's largest mosque reopens

PEKING'S LARGEST mosque, closed since the Chinese Cultural Revolution, has been reopened to the public for Islamic services. The mosque, known as the temple of purity (Qingzhen Si), and also called the temple of prayer (Libai Si), stands in the heart of the Chinese capital's Muslim quarter. It had been undergoing repairs since the beginning of the year, following depredations by the 'Red Guards' in the late 1960s and the 1970s.

The Muslim population of China is tiny in percentage terms, but in absolute terms is immense. Official statistics put the number of Muslims at ten million, but some specialists say the true figure is between 20 and 30 million.

Trade could strengthen Franco-Libyan relations

RECENT EVENTS in the Libyan capital point to new efforts by Tripoli and Paris to improve relations between the two countries despite the tensions of the past year. Following the Gasfa uprising in neighbouring Tunisia, and the intervention of France to support the Tunisian regime, relations between Libya and France came close to being broken. Libya, which has consistently opposed France's interventionist foreign policy, condemned the French aid to Tunisia, and in anti-French demonstrations in the Jamahiriya both the French embassy in Tripoli and its consulate in Benghazi were set on fire by protestors. This led to the recall of the French ambassador.

However, signs of a thaw in relations between the two countries came with the return of the French Ambassador, Charles Malo, to Tripoli in August, and a call from the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi for increased trade with France, especially in the oil sector. Addressing the extraordinary session of the General People's Congress in Tripoli on 28th September, Qadhafi said that increased trade ties were in the best interests of the Libyan people.

Tripoli seminar: Turning human values into reality

LIBYA HAS recently hosted an international symposium on philosophy, at which delegates from 17 countries looked at the task of creating a world based on human understanding and human values. In a key-note speech Muammer Qadhafi spoke of the need to mobilise human energies to provide and protect human freedom.

THE FIRST International Symposium on the Science of Tafsir (Philosophy) held in Tripoli between 15th-21st September marked the latest move by the Libyan Jamahiriya to create better international understanding of the Third Universal Theory, the alternative ideology to capitalism and communism, which is the basis of the Libyan Revolution.

Organised by the Faculty of Education of Tripoli's Al Fateh University, the symposium attracted academics from seventeen countries over four continents.

In a keynote speech, Libya's revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi, spoke of the need for a 'new philosophy' which will address itself to solving the problems of mankind. He considered the meeting to be of significance because it represented an attempt to turn philosophy towards

the creation of a world based on human understanding and human values.

The papers read to the conference covered aspects of the history of the impact of Arab philosophy on the west, Arab nationalism and the contemporary Islamic renaissance, the struggle against Zionism, ancient Greek philosophy, analytical philosophy, the relationship of Darwinism to the teaching of the Koran, ecology and the question of women's rights. There were also expositions and analyses by Libyan scholars of some of the basic concepts of Muammer Qadhafi's *Green Book*, which sets out the principles that guide the Revolution in the Libyan Jamahiriya.

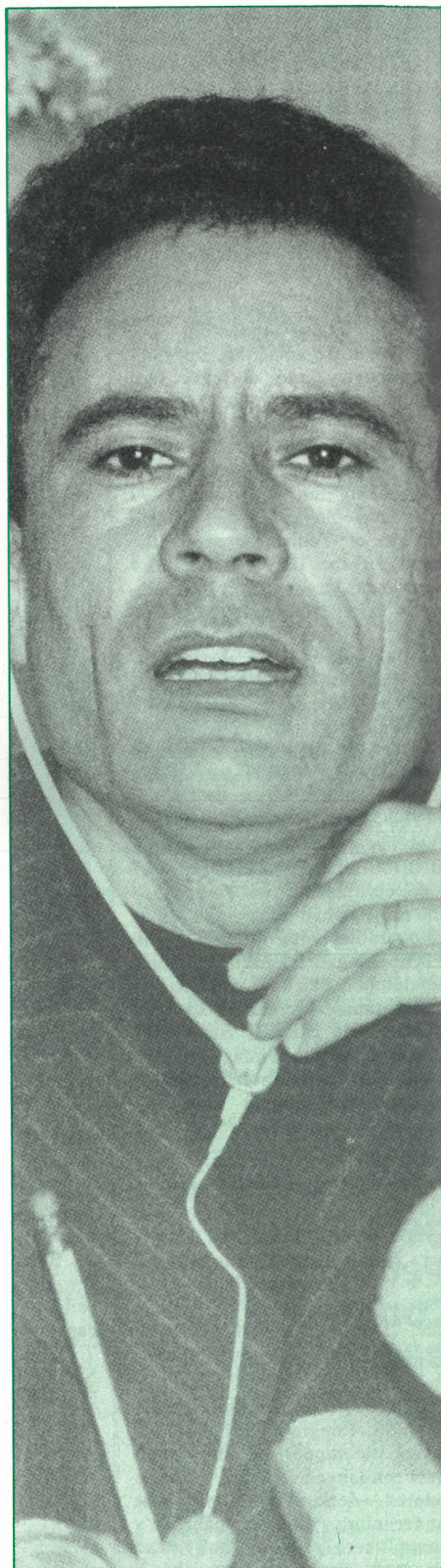
Addressing the symposium, Colonel Qadhafi stressed that the general tendency of the conference papers remained at the traditional level of contributions made at philosophical meetings and were not directed to a definite purpose.

'The old ideas have lost their meaning,' Qadhafi said. 'A new age — the age of the masses — is now appearing, from which will flow a philosophy and a culture of the masses.'

'This represents a new stage in the course of which a strategy will be produced for mobilising human energies in a way which affirms definitively the values of human freedom, the creation of happiness and the superceding of the problems known to mankind,' he declared. The symposium, continued Qadhafi, had begun to establish the basis of this new age of philosophy. 'The way is now open,' he concluded, 'for the elaboration of a philosophy directed to solving the problems of humanity.'

In a statement read to the closing session of the symposium, its organisers said that it had been a positive step towards creating a new universal theory concerned not with metaphysical study, but with the practical problems of the age. It stressed that the Third Universal Theory of the *Green Book* was the basis of such a theory and announced the setting up of an association of philosophers at the level of the Arab nation, and based in the Jamahiriya, which will serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas with a view to materialising the new theory. The association would also establish continuing relations with developments in philosophy in the rest of the world.

The international symposium would be convened every two years, the statement went on, and a permanent secretariat would be set up to encourage continuous discussion. It was also recommended that a Centre for the Renaissance of the Arab-Islamic Inheritance should be set up as soon as possible.



Muammer Qadhafi

The academics attending the Tripoli conference came from Libya, Syria, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, France, Greece, Italy, Vatican City, West Germany, Turkey, Spain, the USA, Britain, Pakistan, the German Democratic Republic and Poland. As well as attending the symposium in the excellently appointed Ibn Khaldun lecture theatre, the delegates were taken on several tours of agricultural projects and also visited the superb new Gar Younis University in Benghazi.

Racism, Anti-Semitism and the Zionists

THAT THE Zionists should seek to benefit from the recent spate of anti-semitic attacks against the Jewish communities in France recalls the long inter-relationship between European anti-semitism and Zionism, and in many respects provides the answer to why Zionist Premier Menachim Beigin should be amongst those who are now keen to exploit the problems facing French Jewry.

Political Zionism is, itself, a creation from anti-semitism in Europe. The argument of the early Zionists like Theodore Herzl was that the creation of a Jewish state would provide a solution for Jewish communities in Europe under threat from anti-semitism. In those early days of Zionism, before it gained the support of the imperialist powers for its colonial venture in Arab Palestine, many Jews rejected this assertion, arguing that racism and anti-semitism should be confronted; Zionism in its schemes for a Jewish state merely accepted racism as a human characteristic which could not be defeated.

With Zionism powered by the presence of anti-semitism in Europe, the rise of anti-semitism is of concern both to the Palestinians and the wider Arab community. At a time when Jewish emigration to Palestine hardly exceeds Jewish emigration out of the Zionist state, recent events in France play directly into the hands of the Zionists by stimulating Jewish emigration at the expense of Arab rights in Palestine.

In its propaganda campaign, Israel has accused both the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Libyan Jamahiriya of complicity with fascist organisations in Europe. The western media in giving coverage to these claims has acted in Zionist interests to portray a wholly false image for Libyans and Palestinians alike, and a great injustice to the good community relations between Jews and Arabs which existed in both Arab countries before the intrigues of Zionism in the Arab homeland.

Although Libyan Jews responded in substantial numbers to the Zionist call for emigration to Palestine, historically there was no enmity between Jew and Arab in Libya. Lord Caradon in his book *A Start in Freedom* recalls his visits to Libya during World War II and the ravages experienced by all Libyans whether Jew or Moslem. Recounting the liberation of Jews from Nazi camps in Libya, Lord Caradon recalls the jubilation amongst the Libyan Muslims: 'The Arab leaders of Benghazi came out several miles along the road to welcome them home again.'

Today in the modern Libyan Jamahiriya, the country's revolutionary leaders have consistently stressed the distinction between a Jew and a Zionist. On several occasions Muammer Qadhafi himself has

THE RECENT bombing outrage at a synagogue in Paris has been exploited by the Zionists to accuse the Arabs of being behind the incident. In this special report Louis Eaks examines these allegations, and the historic links between Zionist and anti-semitism.

declared that despite the conflict with the Zionists in Palestine, Libya is ready to welcome home Libyan Jews returning from Palestine.

In fact, it was in Paris in 1973 that Colonel Qadhafi declared his attitude to the return of Jews to their country of origin from Palestine. He told a symposium organised by the French daily *Le Monde*: 'I affirm that the doors of Libya are open to all Arab and Libyan Jews who have emigrated by their free will to Palestine.'

Again at an international symposium held in Tripoli during July 1976, Qadhafi elaborated on the distinction between Zionists and Jews, and the freedom of Libyan Jews to return.

The Libyan leader urged Arab Jews living in Palestine to return to their original Arab countries rather than assist the Zionist colony in Palestine, and reiterated that 'Libya is ready to accept Libyan Jews' who want to return.

Jewish personalities frequently receive a welcome in the Libyan Jamahiriya. Not only do the Zionists dislike this, but have actually condemned Jews visiting Libya. One case in 1976 involved Professor Klaus Herman who attended the Zionism and Racism symposium in Tripoli. As a result the Canadian Zionist

Federation attempted to expel Herman from membership of the Jewish organisation B'nai B'rith. The professor replied at the time, 'I was not aware that the United States, of which I am a citizen, or Canada, where I am resident, were at war with Libya. Therefore I find it most disturbing to refer to Libya as the enemy.'

The fact of the matter is that Zionism and anti-semitism share a common view: that Jewish communities should be expelled from gentile society. In this respect any upsurge of anti-semitism, wherever it may occur, serves Zionist interests in forcing Jews to emigrate to Palestine to provide demographic support for the Zionist state of Israel.

Any upsurge of anti-semitism, therefore, acts directly against the interests of the Palestinians, by strengthening the Zionist state.

Contrary to the assertions of Beigin and other Zionists, the Palestinians consider that reconciliation between Jews in Palestine and the Palestinian Arabs (that is Muslim and Christian Arabs subjected to discrimination by the Zionists) is an important prerequisite to a settlement of the conflict in Palestine.

Although the Zionists attempt to present the Palestinian liberation struggle in purely anti-Jewish terms, the facts do not support this. Yasser Arafat, addressing the United Nations in 1974, referred to the Palestinian vision of a secular and democratic state, providing equal rights for Christians, Muslims and Jews. This is, of course, the very solution which the Zionists most fear.

However, this is no mere propaganda theme by the Palestinians. The PLO has campaigned for respect of Jewish community rights in the Arab world, and during the height of the Lebanese civil war PLO commandos mounted guard on the Jewish community in Beirut under threat from Phalangist militias.

The Zionists, on the other hand, declared in the Israeli Parliament that it would have been better had the Beirut Jews been massacred by the Christian forces rather than benefit from the protection of Arafat's men.

Knesset member Menachim Aror argued at the time in 1975 that even if those Jews trapped in the Beirut synagogue had died, Israel would have been the winner, because it would have been able to exploit the incident in propaganda against the Arabs.

Today, attacks on Jews in France are being ruthlessly exploited in precisely the same manner in a renewed attempt to discredit the Arabs, and in particular to undermine the growing awareness in the EEC that Palestinian rights must be respected, and the PLO recognised as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, if peace is to be restored in Palestine.



A Palestinian guards Lebanese Jews





Jerusalem: No legal right for Zionist annexation

Zionists: Illegal actions in Jerusalem

IN DEFIANCE of the expressed will of the international community, the Zionist state on 31st July passed a law declaring the whole of Jerusalem its eternal capital. The provocative move by Israel served only to inflame world opinion and to increase the Zionist state's political isolation. Following a UN Security Council resolution censuring Israel for passing its Jerusalem law, and calling on all countries with diplomatic missions in the city to withdraw them, there was an exodus of embassies from the Holy City.

In a message to Arab leaders, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the law represented 'a flagrant challenge to the international will and to the successive resolutions of the UN Security Council and the General Assembly since 1967.' The Israeli law also brought forth a storm of international protests.

In Paris a French Foreign Ministry statement called the law 'contrary to international law and UN resolutions.' The communiqué expressed 'strong concern over these actions that contribute to increasing tension in the region and contradict the efforts in the direction of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.' In Bonn a West German Foreign Ministry spokesman said, 'The measure is apt to seriously hamper peace efforts.' And even the United States, the major backer of the Zionist state, had words of rebuke, mild though they were. US State Department spokesman John Trattner described the law as 'not helpful'.

The meeting of the Islamic Conference Jerusalem Committee, convened at the request of the PLO, urged the world's Muslim countries to impose a political and economic boycott on states that 'approve, encourage or participate in' the annexation.

THE RESPONSE to the Zionists' pronouncement that a united Jerusalem is their eternal capital has brought widespread international criticism. Alan George looks at the response to the Zionists' actions, and a recently published book by an international jurist which confirms that the Zionists have no rights to any part of Jerusalem.

The United Nations, however, was the focal point of the world opinion. On 20th August the Security Council adopted a resolution censuring Israel for the Jerusalem law and calling on all UN members to withdraw their embassies from the city. Voting was 14-0, with the US, which might have used its veto, abstaining.

There was a positive response to the UN call. In the weeks following the resolution one state after another announced the transfer of its diplomatic mission from the occupied city. Prior to the Israeli bill 13 states maintained diplomatic missions in Jerusalem, all Latin American except Holland. Within two weeks of the Security Council resolution all had announced the transfer of their missions to Tel Aviv. The move that hurt the Zionist state most was the Dutch decision to move their embassy. Holland has consistently been Israel's strongest supporter amongst the states of western Europe.

By approving the Jerusalem law, the Zionists were once again demonstrating

their contempt for international opinion, as the world community had already before the law was passed expressed its vehement opposition to any action by Israel to alter the status of the occupied city. Earlier this year, on 30th June, the UN Security Council had passed a resolution denying the Zionist state the right to change the Holy City's status. As in the later resolution, the voting was 14-0, with the US abstaining.

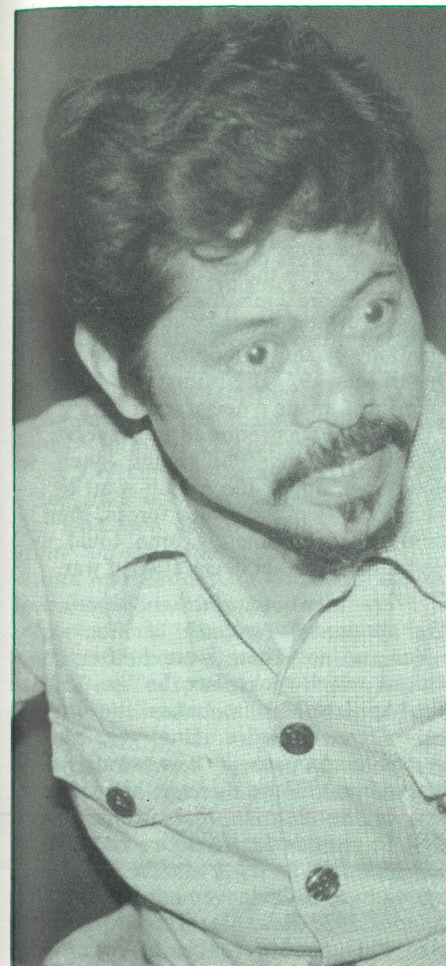
Apart from UN resolutions, the Zionists' actions are in violation of international law. The Geneva Conventions, to which Israel is a signatory, expressly forbid any changes in the status of occupied territories.

The voting on the law in the Israeli parliament (Knesset) demonstrated just how insignificant are the differences between the major Zionist political parties when it comes to the question of Zionist expansion. The 120-member Knesset voted by 69 to 15 in favour of the annexation law, which had been introduced in May by Mrs Guela Cohen, a former member of the infamous Stern Gang that perpetrated a succession of terrorist outrages both against Arabs and the British in the days of the British Mandate over Palestine. Only the tiny number of left wing and progressive Knesset members voted against the law.

However, Israel's insistence on treating the whole of Jerusalem as a single entity may in itself backfire badly on the Zionists. In a recently published book* on Jerusalem by the distinguished Palestinian and international jurist Henry Cattán, it is demonstrated that the western part of the city, which was occupied by the Zionists in 1948, is as much occupied territory as the eastern part occupied in 1967.

'There can be no doubt,' says Mr Cattán, 'that on legal and logical grounds there exists no difference in regard to their illegality and invalidity between the measures taken by Israel in modern Jerusalem since 1948 and those it has taken in the Old City since 1967. Those illegal measures comprise, *inter alia*, the annexation of the city, the transfer of Jews to Jerusalem in order to modify its demographic structure, the deportation and displacement of its Arab inhabitants, the refusal to allow their repatriation and the expropriation and confiscation of their property. The city is indivisible and it is evident that Israel's illegal acts in Jerusalem since 1948 are on the same footing as its illegal acts since 1967. What is illegal in 1967 was illegal in 1948. In both cases, Israel's actions are invalid and cannot change the status of the city. In both cases Israel's actions must be rescinded.' If the Zionists insist on treating the Holy City as indivisible, the world community has the right to do likewise when the day of reckoning comes for the Zionist state.

* The Question of Jerusalem by Henry Cattán, Third World Centre for Research and Publishing, London, 1980.



Nur Misuari

□ Where does the name Moro actually come from?

• Moro is the name of our nation, of our people and was first coined by the Spanish colonialists whom we fought against for almost 300 years. I believe it is associated with the Moro of Andalucia.

□ When was the Moro National Liberation Front first formed and why?

• We actually formed in March, 1968 in response to the massacre of our youth by the Marcos regime. The background to the massacre related to the incorporation of Sabah, our national homeland, into the Malaysian Federation. Sabah was then under British colonial control but, in the aftermath of the Suez disaster, the British instituted a policy of withdrawal east of Suez. They formed the Malaysian Federation and included Sabah.

□ Did Sabah have an historical link with Malaysia?

• No. According to historians, the State of Sabah was part of the Sulu Kingdom and was merely leased to the British. The British withdrew from the area just a few years prior to the lapse of this lease but in a typical colonial fashion, handed the area over to Malaysia without regard to national identity. In fact, Malaysia itself only came into national being at that time. The Federation included Singapore, Sarawak as well as Sabah.

□ How did the Philippines become involved?



Moro commandos challenge Marcos tyranny

Moro's struggle for justice in the Philippines

EFFORTS BY the Libyan Jamahiriya and the Islamic Conference in 1976 to settle the conflict between the Marcos regime and the Moro Liberation Front failed in their objectives and have led to an upsurge in the liberation effort of Moro. In this exclusive interview Zeinab Abbas talks with Nur Misuari, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Moro National Liberation Front.

• The Philippine authorities refused to accept the inclusion of Sabah in the Malaysian Federation. They argued that the Kingdom of Sulu was now under their jurisdiction and therefore Sabah should be

transferred to the sovereignty of the Philippines. After the failure of negotiations, a case was filed with the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Malaysia, however, refused to accept any of the Court's rulings and it was at this point that Marcos formed a special military unit to suppress our people.

□ Why a special unit? Why not the regular army?

• I believe simply to legitimise the invasion since the recruited personnel were all from the sea. This special unit had two parts: the political arm was called Mertada, which means independence, and the military arm was called Jabidah. Only Muslims were recruited for the invasion of Sabah. They were under the command of Major Abdul Latif Marcelino, a former Christian who took the name to disarm the people. On recruitment, they were actually told they were joining the armed forces of the Philippines but after graduation, they were transferred to Corrigioe, an island off the coast of Manila. They then began to demand certificates of graduation and their army pay. At this point they were told of the planned invasion of Sabah. They refused to participate and on 18th March 1968, they were massacred. Their bodies were wrapped in lead and thrown into the sea.

□ How did news of the massacre get out?

• One of them escaped wounded. He swam the lake and was fortunate enough to

be presented to an anti-Marcos governor, the Governor of Cavite, a member of the opposition Liberal Party. He then took the case to the Philippine Congress. The commander of the special unit was placed under arrest and an investigation ordered. However, in the end the investigative process was useless. Marcos promoted the commander and denied any complicity in the massacre.

□ *You say Moro National Liberation Front sprang up from this massacre. How?*

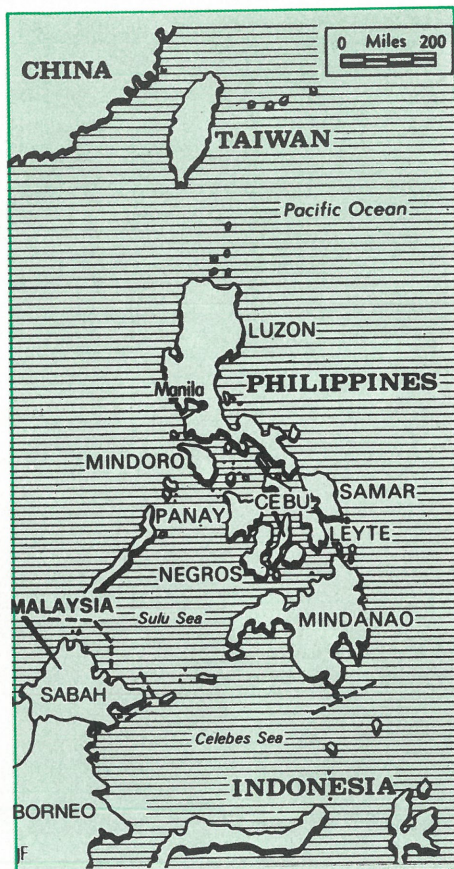
• The Muslim community began to organize after news of the massacre. We first held a massive demonstration in front of the Palace of Freedom Park, and staged a sit-in for 9 days and nights. In response to the rising nationalist Moro tide, Marcos formed a unit called Ilaga (which means rat), modelled on the Zionist Irgun terrorist group. The advisers in the formation of this unit were actually Zionists from Singapore, whose experience in terrorism is well known by our brother Palestinians. Indeed, many ministers in the Marcos cabinet are committed Zionists.

Ilaga then began a campaign of terror against the Muslim community, which included the bombing of mosques, the assassination of Muslim leaders and the burning of Muslim homes. Thousands fell at the hands of Ilaga and innumerable properties were destroyed. The MNLF was in the mainstream of Muslim opposition. We began the movement south, taking our community into the countryside for safety. We were even able to create 'No-Go' areas for Ilaga and the Philippine army.

□ *What was Government reaction?*

• Marcos was worried and it was the defence of our people which pushed him to declare martial law on 21st September 1972. He then declared open war against us, sending commander Fernandez to the area. Fernandez was so unprepared for our defence force, he declared that he would destroy the Muslim forces in two hours. On 14th November they launched their offensive, but instead of liquidating us, we pushed them into the sea. The next day they launched another offensive, but again we encircled one entire battalion and killed them to a man. After these operations on the island of Jolo, the morale of our community rose dramatically, and the MNLF was having to turn away volunteers for the defence force because there were so many of them.

We began to liberate areas and place them under our military and political control, and then declared to the international community our willingness to fight for the independence of the Bansa Moro Republic. You must remember that we only lost our independence in July 1946, when American imperialism in collaboration with its Philippine puppets annexed our homeland and suppressed our independent existence.



□ *When did the Islamic Conference become involved?*

• In August 1973, the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference sent a special investigating commission to see us, after reports reached them about the genocidal war against the Muslims of our area. They reported to the Kuala Lumpur 5th Islamic Conference in 1974, confirming the mass slaughter of Muslims. They also confirmed that the MNLF was strong and quite capable of liberating the country from the Philippines.

The Foreign Ministers then resolved to find a peaceful solution to the problem and asked the Commission to make contact with the Philippine Government and MNLF. Marcos, however, refused to talk on the matter of independence although he agreed to join negotiations. This turned out to be a tactical move to gain time and to relaunch the war.

In January 1975 our first round of negotiations took place under the auspices of the Islamic Conference. Unfortunately, they ended in failure.

□ *I understand there was another round of Islamic Conference negotiations?*

• Yes, this led to the famous Tripoli Agreement of 23rd December 1976. Through that agreement, MNLF agreed to mediation by the Islamic Conference to end the war. We even went as far as conceding our demands for self-determination and independence — just to show our good faith. However, we did initially insist on autonomy for all the Moro homeland. Eventually we even conceded this demand, reducing the autonomy to 60 per cent of our national homeland — 13 out of 24 provinces.

Marcos declared a ceasefire on the 27th December which we followed on the 20th January. A ceasefire commission was sent by the Islamic Conference. One must understand that the Tripoli Agreement did not cover in detail all the outstanding problems, but mainly the major matters of principle. Thus, when we began negotiations in detail, we were startled to see Marcos backing out of the agreement. The negotiations then collapsed.

Furthermore in the three months following the ceasefire, there were 500 violations by the Philippine armed forces. On 4th May 1977 the Minister of Defence, Juan Enril, made a declaration saying that if bloodshed was required to preserve the integrity of the Philippines, then let blood flow, and if the MNLF want to test the capability of the armed forces, then let them do so. Ultimately, one could only see this as a further declaration of war.

□ *Were there any further negotiations after the ceasefire ended?*

• Yes and no. There were further negotiations which took place on the 15th to 30th April in Manila, before the obvious end of the ceasefire. However, Marcos began to prepare a new strategy. In September 1977 he directed his commanders in the field to make contact with MNLF commanders 'with or without Nur Misuari'. In other words, they were hoping to split the movement. On the 10th October 1977 Brigadier Teodulo Bautista tried this tactic, contacting our commanders and asking them to negotiate a surrender. There was a shoot-out and the Brigadier, who was the head of the Fourth Army Division, was killed along with five colonels and about thirty other officers and men. The Philippine Army then launched a general offensive which we again repulsed.

One of the latest attempts to resume negotiations, again under the auspices of the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference, took place on 2nd April this year. Again, there were to be no preconditions except that the meeting be outside the Philippines, within the framework of the Tripoli Agreement and under the guiding hands of the Islamic Conference. However, Marcos also rejected this, declaring the Tripoli Agreement invalid, and putting forward a list of preconditions, which he knew we could not accept.

Although further attempts have been tried, especially this last round in the Philippines, all have failed and the war is now expanding. We are now fighting in about 20 provinces, including some major cities and MNLF now believe the solution to lie totally in the armed struggle to liberate our lands.

On the diplomatic front, we are already making progress. In May this year, the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference in Islamabad instructed the Secretary-General to make contact with international agencies on the struggle of MNLF, and we are making contact at the United Nations and hope to send a delegation to New York shortly.

Saharan determination could break Hassan's throne

THE PAST year has provided both diplomatic and military victories for the Western Saharan people's liberation struggle against the Moroccan forces of King Hassan. Zeinab Abbas assesses the current situation and predicts that King Hassan will not only fail to win the war, but could also lose his Moroccan throne.

IN THE post colonial era, the ever-changing map of Africa has recently added a new name to it list, that of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, formerly known as Spanish Sahara. However, despite the fact that SADR is now recognised by the majority of member states within the Organisation of African Unity, Western Sahara does not enjoy peace and stability. Instead its people are mobilised for war by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquet El-Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario) against occupation forces from Morocco.

International intrigue has been the hallmark of the country's decolonisation process. Despite Spanish assertions to the United Nations that the independence process was under way for the Saharan territory, instead Spain, Morocco and Mauritania signed an agreement on 14th November 1975 which divided the country between its northern and southern neighbours. The Madrid Pact, as it was known, took no account of the wishes of the Saharan people, rather it was little more than a conspiracy to hold the territory and its people under permanent occupation.

King Hassan's famous Green March on the Sahara was, in actual fact, a cover for the invasion of Moroccan troops. Staged in near carnival atmosphere, with participants urged forward with cash hand-outs, and government facilities to provide catering and welfare backup, the Green March was intended to serve two purposes for the ailing Moroccan monarchy. First of all, it provided a national issue around which to rally Moroccan public opinion, except the radical parties of the Left, thus deflecting public discontent from the autocratic rule of King Hassan and the sad state of the country's economy. Secondly, it provided a much needed boost for the armed forces traditionally loyal to the monarch but equally a potential force for revolution.

However, as subsequent events proved, the King gravely underestimated the tenacity of Polisario and its supporters. Although in the period of Spanish colonialism, Libya had urged a federation between the Saharan territory and Morocco, consistent with the Jamahiriya's commitment to any step towards eventual Arab unity. The Morocco advance into the Sahara effectively sabotaged that idea; occupation could not be equated with federation.

In the face of Morocco's assault on the Saharan territory, both Libya and Algeria allied themselves with Polisario.

On 26th February, two days before



Polisario forces

Spain terminated its rule in the Sahara, the Saharan Democratic Republic was declared to the international media by Polisario. Its political structure was to consist of a Council of Revolution, a People's Congress and a Minister Cabinet. The mass support for Polisario, even in 1975, was striking to outside observers, and even the Spanish harkis (indigenous auxiliary forces) joined Polisario.

Although the fighting capacity of Poli-

sario made it increasingly obvious that the Saharan dispute could not be settled by military means, the two main protagonists, Morocco and Mauritania, continued to be adamant in refusing offers of mediation from African and Arab leaders.

However, in 1978 the character of the war changed dramatically. In July, Mauritania declared a ceasefire with Polisario; the Mauritanian army was demoralised and the economy had lapsed into virtual bankruptcy. Mauritania hoped this would provide a short respite, but hopes were soon dashed by Polisario's assault on Tichla, which confirmed the latter's strength, effectively destroying any Mauritanian hopes of resuming their side of the war. On 6th August, 1979, Mauritania signed a peace treaty with Polisario which ended both the former's belligerent status, as well as its alliance with Morocco.

In 1980, the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic has enjoyed a number of diplomatic victories, and although membership of the OAU was blocked on a procedural technicality, not to mention Morocco's threat to leave the organisation if the Saharans were admitted, the extent of support for SADR amongst African states was clear enough at the 1980 summit. Over half the member states supported SADR's admission to the OAU, and Polisario's case was forcefully put by two of Africa's outstanding liberation champions — Samora Machel of Mozambique and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

It was Mugabe's first opportunity to address the OAU as a head of state, and he did not mince his words, nor his contempt for Morocco's adventures in the Saharan territories when he said: 'North of us is the former Spanish territory of Western Sahara, currently struggling not against Spanish colonialism, which has now given way, but against the territorial aggrandisement of a neighbouring brother.'

The only country which now stands in the path of Western Saharan liberation is Morocco. However, its inability to destroy the resolve of the Polisario guerrillas, and, in recent times, its failure to protect its own borders from Polisario attacks, must surely result in King Hassan's final capitulation.

Despite American backing for Morocco, Polisario is waging a highly successful guerrilla war and its success is seen even by western observers as inevitable. Morocco, on the other hand, is paying a high price for the war of attrition; a war which Moroccan field commanders confidently predicted in 1975 would be over in a matter of days.

The call of Islam in Africa

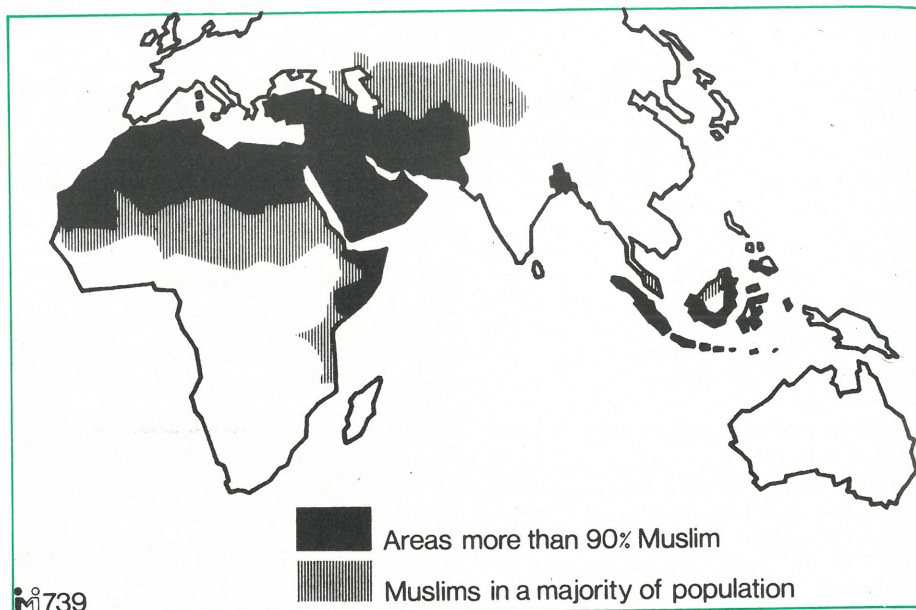
ISLAM HAS been an integral part of African society for centuries. But recent years have seen a marked resurgence in its following on the continent. Libya and other Islamic countries are assisting the new growth of the religion of the Prophet.

ISLAM HAS enjoyed a spectacular growth in Africa over recent years; it now has more adherents in the continent than any other religion. Out of a total sub-Saharan African population of around 260 million, some 100 million are Muslims. To these must be added the 80 million Muslims of North Africa. But, as a recent article in the London magazine *8 Days* pointed out, the largest Muslim population in any African state is not Egypt's 40 million believers, but Nigeria's 80 million.

The first contacts between the Islamic world and sub-Saharan Africa came in the Middle Ages when Arab merchants traded down the east African coast from Somalia to Mozambique. At the same time the Arabs traded from North Africa across the desert wastes of the Sahara, bringing with them their religion as well as their goods. Nevertheless, until the nineteenth century Islam remained essentially the religion of the ruling elites in sub-Saharan Africa. The vast majority of the population remained loyal to the animist cults of their ancestors.

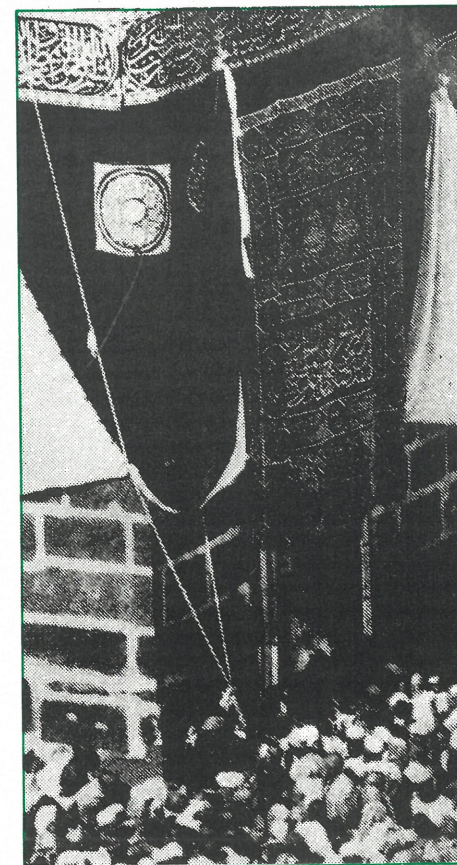
It was the European penetration of Africa in the last century that provided the impetus for a rapid extension of the Islamic faith amongst the population at large. 'Islam came to represent a form of resistance to European imperialism,' says the *8 Days* report. 'According to the French Minister of Overseas Development Robert Galley: "The force of Islam in black Africa is indeed considerable. It can be identified with the struggle against the white man, the wealthy and foreign domination. Christianity appears more often, notably in the Sahel region, as the religion of the former colonial power."'

While the Arab traders along the east African coast established a string of trading posts, their influence did not extend far inland and it was only in the savannah belt of West Africa that the faith had a really solid foothold. From there, it has been gradually making its way down the coast and also into central Africa, a movement that is still very much in progress. Today, 85 per cent of Senegal's



population is Muslim, 60 per cent of Mali's and almost half of Nigeria's. Practically all of Niger's 6.5 million people profess the Islamic faith. The extraordinary speed of Islam's growth in Africa is exemplified by the case of the Mossi tribesmen of Upper Volta. In 1955 only 150,000 of them were Muslims, a figure that had jumped to over 1.5 million by 1978.

This rapid expansion cannot be explained entirely as a reaction to western imperialism, however. Islam, as a more flexible religion than Christianity, was better able to adapt to, and assimilate, numerous aspects of local African culture and religions. The custom of polygamy is a case in point. This was condemned outright by



The Holy Ka'ba revered by Africa's Muslims

Christian missionaries but did not conflict with the precepts of Islam. *8 Days* comments that 'The blending of Islam with African customs and rites has gone so far that the noted French Islamic scholar, Vincent Monteil, could even speak of a "Black Islam".'

On the political level, one of the most significant aspects of the spread of Islam in Africa has been the rapprochement it has helped foster between the Arab and African states. 'Until the early 1970's,' says *8 Days*, 'the two groups tended to go their own ways. The dogged efforts of Libya's President Qadhafi helped build a new relationship. His campaign helped convince a number of African heads of state to rally behind the Palestinian cause and break diplomatic ties with Israel. Since then, oil-producing Arab countries have sought to cement these links with economic aid and an Afro-Arab dialogue.'

The Jamahiriya's efforts to consolidate and extend its Islamic links with sub-Saharan Africa continue unabated. In July an agreement was signed by the Ugandan Foreign Minister for the establishment of an Islamic study centre in the country. It is to be financed by the joint organisation for Islamic cultural centres, which is supported by Libya and the United Arab Emirates. The centre will incorporate schools, medical dispensaries, lecture halls, libraries and a mosque. News of the agreement came hard on the heels of the opening in the Gambian capital Banjul of an office of the Tripoli-based Islamic Call Society, which is dedicated to the propagation of the Islamic faith. A Libyan-financed Islamic cultural centre and mosque are already under construction in the city.

It seems certain that Islam will continue to grow in the African continent, aided by the establishment of such facilities. In the words of *8 Days*, 'As long as Islam continues to respond to the religious aspirations of a growing number of Africans and roots itself firmly in black African traditions, its future on the continent is assured.'

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT has been accorded the highest priority by Libya's planners ever since the Revolution on 1st September 1969. The motives for the special emphasis placed on industry have been varied, but are complementary. In the pre-revolutionary era, the Libyan economy was dominated overwhelmingly by the oil sector, with by far the largest proportion of national output being accounted for by exports of crude oil. The need to diversify the economy away from this over-dependence on oil was perceived as an urgent necessity, and the industrial sector offers great scope to this end.

At the same time, revolutionary Libya stresses its need for independence in both the political and economic fields. It is well appreciated that political independence is unattainable without a parallel independence of the economy. No country that relies totally on the outside world for the whole range of essential manufactured products required by its people could be described as independent. So a far greater degree of economic independence was another major factor in the minds of the Jamahiriya's planners when they placed such heavy emphasis on the industrial sector.

However, import substitution alone was not the aim. It was also envisaged that Libya herself might become a major exporter of manufactured goods. Hence the factories established since the Revolution often have output capacities well in excess of what would be required to meet only the needs of the domestic market.

There are also social reasons for the Jamahiriya's drive towards industrialisation. As a socialist country, Libya is committed to the well-being of its citizens in every field, and the provision of adequate employment opportunities is seen as a central tenet of policy.

In the years following the discovery of oil, the country was faced with two pressing and inter-related problems. On the one hand, there was a massive drift of people from the countryside to the major towns, attracted by higher living standards. More productive jobs were needed for those who moved to the towns, and industry also offered a means of creating employment opportunities in the rural areas, thereby checking the depopulation of the countryside.

The new impetus given to the industrial sector by the Revolution is graphically portrayed by a comparison of government allocations for industry before and after the overthrow of the monarchy. In the eight years preceeding the Revolution, LD 28.6 million were expended in the development budgets on industry and mineral resources. In the following eight years the figure had rocketed to LD 712.7 million. In the earlier period, allocations for industry constituted a mere 5.1 per cent of total expenditure. In the period from 1970 to 1977 the share of industry in public spending had risen to an impressive 13.2 per cent. These figures, of course, relate to the entire gamut of

Liberation through industrial development

NO COUNTRY can claim to be independent so long as it relies heavily on foreign imports, assert Libya's revolutionary leaders. Since the 1969 Revolution, the Jamahiriya has invested heavily in industrial development and in this report Alan George looks at the impressive achievements in the past eleven years in the light industrial sector.



industrial activities, and not just to light industries. The latter, however, have been the recipients of a very significant part of the expenditures. And the pace of industrial development expenditure has not slackened in the years since 1977. In the first half of this year Libya signed contracts for projects in all sectors valuing \$1,173.9 million, up from \$582.9 million in the same period of last year. Of the six-monthly total for this year, \$181 million worth of contracts were for industrial projects.

The most recent figures available for public spending on light industries are for the first six months of 1979, and these underline the priority given to the sector by the Jamahiriya's planners. The Department of Planning and Statistics in the General People's Committee for light industries last September disclosed that in the first half of the year a total of LD 49.182 million (£81.97 million) had been invested in light industries. This figure included LD 19.432 million (£32.39 million) on chemical industries, followed by LD 11.031 million (£18.38 million) for building materials industries. Textiles and clothing received LD 6.634 million (£11 million), food industries LD 4.4 million (£7.33 million) and metallurgy a further LD 4.212 million (£7.02 million) and wood industries, such as furniture

making, LD 1.838 million (£3.06 million).

The Jamahiriya's healthy oil revenues, and the fact that the industrial sector was so poorly developed at the time of the Revolution, have meant that it has been possible to establish the most modern plants in a wide range of light industrial sectors. Between 1969 and the beginning of last year 58 factories were established, making products ranging from food to tobacco, cement and building materials to textiles and leather products, metal products and electrical and glass goods. In September last year, 58 plants were in operation, a further 36 were under construction, and 34 more under study. Between 1975 and 1978 an average of ten new light industrial plants opened each year in the public sector.

The new \$150 million Gargi cigarette factory in Tripoli, opened late last year, typifies the high technical standards of the new light industrial establishments in the Jamahiriya. The factory, which employs 1,000 workers, was designed and constructed by Italian firms within a three year period. The Gargi complex includes not only the plant itself, but a small hospital, an ultra modern mosque, sports club, supermarket and a guest house. All the buildings are set in parklands of lawns and fountains. The plant itself has a capacity to produce between 15 and 20

million cigarettes an hour, which will more than satisfy demand within the Jamahiriya itself. Export markets are being sought for the new Libyan cigarettes, reportedly mainly in Africa.

Sources in Tripoli for the opening of the plant pointed to Libya's ability to produce what one tobacco broker described as 'the best plant in the world'. To justify this accolade he pointed to the mixing of the best equipment from a range of countries — the UK, West Germany and Italy, and the use of tobacco from an equally wide range of sources — Brazil, Greece, the United States and locally grown.

Similar ultra-modern light industrial complexes are currently under construction elsewhere in Libya. Amongst these is a \$104 million textile complex at Beni Walid. Jonen Matex of West Germany will provide the plant with a production capacity of 620,000 square metres of non-woven and 250,000 square metres of woven carpets and 400,000 rugs annually. At Tajoura a German-Greek consortium of Hoesch Tecna and Edok Eter is building a \$32 million tyre factory. Food processing industries are also witnessing rapid development. In July this year the Light Industry Secretariat invited tenders for the construction of a fully automated plant for the production of industrial and medical alcohol, vinegar and dry bakery yeast in the coastal town of Homs, east of Tripoli. And to coincide with this year's anniversary of the First of September Revolution, a flour mill complex was opened near Tobruk. The complex includes five grain silos with a total storage capacity of 10,000 cubic metres and an hourly production capacity of 18,500 kilos of flour.

Clothing and leather goods industries constitute another bulwark of the Jamahiriya's light industrial sector. A

plant for ready-to-wear suits has been established at Derna, in the east, while at Misrata a highly successful leather shoe factory is in operation, supplied by the Tajoura tannery, the latter having an output capacity of 90,000 feet of leather per annum. In 1979 over 1.1 million pairs of shoes were produced at the Misrata plant, 711,642 pairs more than in 1977. It is hoped that output this year will reach 2.5 million pairs of shoes, a target that seems realistic since a daily production rate of 7,573 pairs has been achieved already this year.

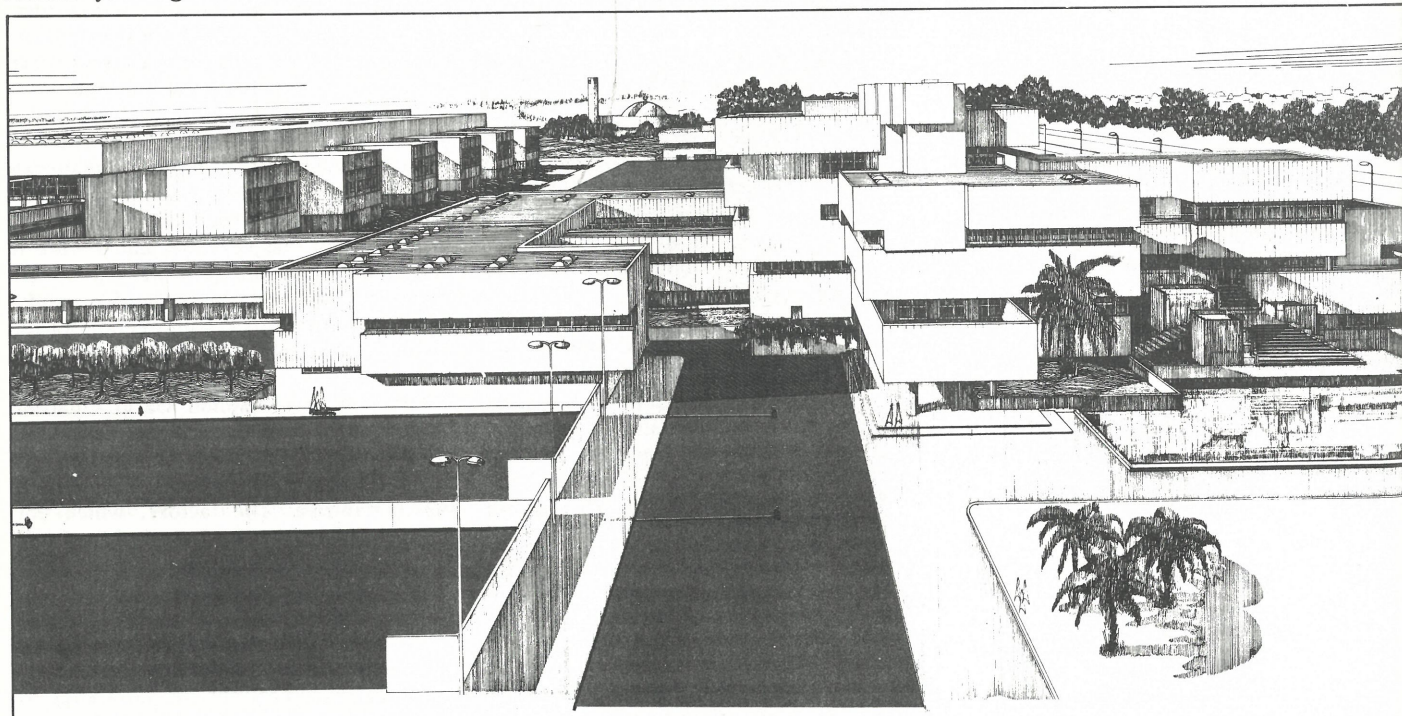
The growing significance of light industry in the Jamahiriya's economy was highlighted by the production figures for the first half of 1980, recently released by the Secretariat of the People's Committee for Light Industries. The value of production had risen to LD 57 million while in most enterprises output was up by 120-216 per cent in real terms over the corresponding periods in the last two years. The detailed sectoral production figures reveal the breadth of the Jamahiriya's light industrial base: milk products, 19 million litres; flour, 110,000 tonnes; feedstuffs, 130,000 tonnes; aluminium piping, 14,000 tonnes; plastic piping, 5,200 tonnes; bricks, 40,000 tonnes; shoes, 2,012,306 pairs; skins, 1,960,000 square feet; shoe leather, 84.5 tonnes; ready to wear men's suits, 152,000; macaroni, 55,300 tonnes; spun wool yarn, 360 tonnes; tinned foods, 18,420 tonnes; and furniture, both school and domestic, 65,250 items.

The most recent figures for employment in light industry relate to 1974, but even by then it was evident that the sector was making a significant contribution to the creation of employment opportunities for the Jamahiriya's rapidly growing population. In firms employing over 500 people in 1974, the figures were: food manu-

facturing 2,037; cement and building materials, 1,651; beverages, 1,328; tobacco products, 1,267; wood production, 886; rubber and plastics, 859, and chemical industries 736. With the expansion of light industries that has taken place since then, the sector must by now be employing very many more workers.

Side by side with the expansion of the industrial sector in the Libyan Jamahiriya has gone a parallel increase in the availability of facilities for the acquisition of industrial skills. By 1978 there were six industrial education institutes, capable of giving information to over 3,000 students per year. In 1969, prior to the Revolution, only 423 students received industrial training but by 1978 the figure had reached 1,595. In addition to the six institutes, there were two centres for industrial training, offering instruction at a higher level. In 1978 there were 550 trainees, and it had been decided to set up five subcentres. On top of all this, young Libyans are able to avail themselves of training overseas, at public expense.

Heavy industry — particularly in the petrochemicals sector — has formed the backbone of the Jamahiriya's industrial development programme but the light industrial sector has been assuming a growing importance, a trend that can be expected to continue. In May this year a statement by the General People's Committee for Planning revealed that 44 new factories were to be set up shortly. Of these, 14 will be for chemicals and petrochemicals. Ten will be for food processing, four for timber and paper, four for building materials and five for textiles and leather goods. The full scope of the plans for light industry, however, will only become clear with the publication of the next national development plan, for the years 1981-1986, which Libya's Planning Secretariat is currently finalising.



Tripoli's Gargi cigarette factory complex

THE STUDY recommends that Arab countries should formulate a pan-Arab policy designed to eliminate the inequalities caused by the migrant labour system which, it says, has become essential for their economic development. Otherwise, the report says, the present haphazard system, which has already widened the disparity between the poorer and the richer Arab states, could become a divisive factor in the Arab homeland.

The drive for rapid development of the capital-rich oil exporters has tended to obscure the long-term economic, social and political significance of transfers of manpower on this scale. While the migration of labour has furthered this rapid development, it has at the same time hit the economies of the poorer countries which supply the labour, often aggravating the already lopsided distribution of wealth.

As a result, the poorer countries that looked to migrant labour as a fill-up to their economies have become more dependent on the oil-rich states. But this dependency is a two-way street. Given the aspirations of the oil producing states, their reliance on migrant labour will in all probability continue, the study says.

Labour migration in the Arab world started in the 1940s with the advent of economic growth in the Arabian Sheikdoms and states. The study focuses on its development in the 1970s. By 1975, the phenomenon affected over two-and-a-half million Arab workers and their dependents and, in the capital-rich states, immigrant workers accounted for almost half of total employment.

The main countries employing Arab migrant labour in the 1970s were the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Most of the skilled workers they employed tended to come from poorer countries with fewer natural resources, especially Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan and Syria.

Migration patterns began to change in the mid-1970s. The labour demand increased dramatically in the oil-producing states, and a large number of workers from Iran and Iraq were attracted home from the Gulf and peninsular states as their own countries began to develop their economies.

The employing countries found subsequently that the supply of Arab labour fell well short of their requirements, and they began to import more labour from India, Pakistan and East Asia, particularly the Republic of Korea. The study indicates that the increasing number of Arab workers may cause a more serious unemployment problem in the poorer Arab countries than they have so far experienced.

Problems in other areas have already arisen. In Sudan, for example, the exodus of migrant workers meant the withdrawal of 15 per cent of the modern sector workforce, resulting in severe labour shortages. In the Yemen Arab Republic, the remittance from workers abroad, which had



Arab manpower and expertise must be shared

Economic development would be aided by closer Arab unity

THE EXCHANGE of manpower between Arab countries is a crucial issue which must be faced during the 1980s both by countries supplying migrant workers and by those where they are employed, according to a report published recently in Geneva by the International Labour Office.

been the mainstay of the economy, led to a rise in the demand for imports which set new consumption patterns.

In Oman the shortage of labour in the rural areas has resulted in the neglect of traditional irrigation systems and a consequent increased vulnerability to drought. Schemes to develop the Jordan Valley have run into difficulties due to a lack of manpower.

Yet, according to the study, these countries will now have to reorganise their economies to absorb large numbers of skilled and semi-skilled construction workers likely to return home as a result of a recent downward trend in the construction industries of many oil-producing countries. The employment of the returning migrants will be made more difficult by their own higher aspirations and

because their return will provoke a fall in remittances handicapping the economies of their countries even further.

Nor have the countries employing migrant labour come through unscathed, the study predicts that in Qatar the private sector of the economy will soon be run solely by expatriates. In the United Arab Emirates, where nationals now comprise only 50 per cent of the population, and 15 per cent of the work force, the social and political problems caused by the burgeoning Asian immigrant community are likely to become acute.

To avoid further friction caused by continued, rapid development and a new influx of migrant workers, the rich states have resorted to 'enclave development' whereby new industrial estates are kept separate from existing towns and the migrant workers are restricted to work camps.

The study states that although the correct pattern of economic development ensures a reliance on increasing amounts of migrant labour, demand for Arab labour in the region will continue to be unpredictable as a result of the trend towards the use of non-Arab labour. Because of the possibilities of high levels of unemployment in the poorer countries if Asian workers were to be substituted for Arab workers on a larger scale, these countries should 'encourage the capital-rich states to co-operate in a regional manpower policy.'

OPEC urges further oil exploration

THE ORGANISATION of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has said that the best substitute for the oil currently available is that which might yet be discovered, it was reported on 4th October. In its monthly circular the Kuwait-based organisation called on the oil producing countries to do their utmost to explore for more oil. OPEC also called on the oil consuming countries to try to decrease their oil consumption.

The Libyan Jamahiriya is already taking steps along the lines urged by OPEC. Last month *Jamahiriya Review* reported agreements concluded with three western oil companies for exploration. And on 10th October *Middle East Economic Digest* disclosed that the French oil company Société Nationale Elf Aquitaine is to start negotiations in mid-October with Libya's National Oil Company (NOC) on taking up new exploration areas. In February the company was awarded exploration rights to four onshore areas.

The official estimate of Libya's oil reserves is 23,000 million barrels and at the present allowed output rate of 1.7 million barrels per day these would be adequate to ensure production beyond the year 2000.

Arab Insurance Group starts operations

THE BOARD of directors of the mammoth Arab Insurance Group has set a deadline of mid-1981 for the commencement of operations in the insurance and re-insurance sectors, it was disclosed after meetings of the board held in Bahrain on 14th and 15th October. The manpower needs of the group until 1984 were also amongst the topics discussed.

The Arab insurance group was established in April as a joint venture between the Libyan Jamahiriya, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar. \$150 million has already been paid equally by the member states towards the group's authorised capital of \$3 billion. The objectives of the new group are to retain in the Arab homeland insurance business generated in the region.

The joint venture is the second large scale financial institution to be established this year. In January, Libya and Kuwait jointly set up the Arab Banking Corporation, like the insurance group based in Bahrain, which is an off-shore bank with an authorised capital of \$1 billion.



Libyan oil tanker: See Islamic fleet report

Islamic cargo fleet established

AN ISLAMIC shipping company, Ummah Shipping, is to be set up for handling mainly dry cargo and is expected to be operating by the middle of next year. The decision was taken at a meeting of shipping experts from Muslim countries that ended in Karachi on 29th September. Some 40 delegates attended, including representatives from the Libyan Jamahiriya, Oman, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

The aim is to end the heavy reliance on the shipping companies of the industrialised states, who are able to dictate terms for handling freight. At present about 90 per cent of the seaborne cargoes of Islamic states is carried by non-Islamic companies.

The proposed company will be owned equally by private and public sector shareholders in Islamic countries, says Pakistan's port and shipping adviser Mr Mustafa Gokal. The venture will be sponsored by all the members of the Islamic Conference with an authorised capital of \$100 million and a paid-up capital of about \$15 million. Mr Gokal said he hoped it would be possible for the Islamic Development Bank to help promote the new venture.

Ummah Shipping, said Mr Gokal at the meeting, would be an affiliate of the Islamic Conference but would seek close relations with international bodies such as UNCTAD, ILO, and IMCO (the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation) and that shipowners and any inter-governmental organisations should do the same. He pointed out that the new company would provide incentives for building and repair work in the Islamic

states, which had the skilled manpower required. Islamic countries, he said, had an abundance of resources but these had not yet been fully tapped.

The November meeting in Jeddah of the Islamic Economic Commission will consider the proposal, which will then go for final approval to the second Islamic summit conference, to be held in Taif, Saudi Arabia, in December. The company would start work six months after the Taif meeting.

The Karachi shipping meeting, held under Mr Gokal's chairmanship, also recommended the creation of a new Islamic Shipowners Association to promote trade between the Muslim nations.

OPEC oil exports could cease by end of century

SEVERAL OPEC members may have to stop exporting oil by the end of this century because of their rapidly rising domestic energy needs, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has said. A report released by the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna mentioned Algeria, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria and Venezuela as countries where domestic demand could begin consuming all local output sometime during the 1990s. All member countries will be affected as overall OPEC domestic demand for petroleum products rises from 2.43 million barrels per day this year to an estimated 6.21 million b/d in 1990. 'Thereafter, increasing domestic energy requirements will eat up additional substantial amounts from production, and, in some member countries, exports may cease totally,' the OPEC report said.

The report, entitled *Domestic Energy Requirements in OPEC*

Member Countries, urged the Gulf States and the Libyan Jamahiriya to build up their oil refineries, petrochemical industries and energy intensive industries like aluminium and steel. The report's recommendations thus in effect endorse the Libyan industrial development strategy, which centres on petrochemicals and on a planned steel complex at the coastal town of Misrata.

Kuwait donates \$1m to US university

WASHINGTON'S GEORGETOWN University announced in early September that it had received a \$1 million gift from Kuwait, one of the largest grants ever made by an Arab state to a United States educational institution. University officials said the money will be used to endow a chair at Georgetown's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. A senior professor in contemporary Arab affairs and public policy will fill the position.

The University's Center has in the past accepted separate gifts of \$750,000 each from the Libyan Jamahiriya and the United Arab Emirates. Additional grants have been received from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, Oman, Egypt and a number of American corporations with Middle Eastern interests.

The University came under virulent attack from the American Zionist lobby when it accepted the Libyan grant in 1977, which was used to endow a Chair of Islamic Studies. The Chair was filled by Dr Hisham Sharabi, head of the National Association of Arab Americans, editor of the *Journal of Palestine Studies* and a prominent supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

New homes for 2,600 in urban projects

RECENT WEEKS have seen a surge of construction projects started in the Libyan Jamahiriya, a number of them inaugurated as part of the celebrations for the eleventh anniversary of the great Al Fateh Revolution. By far the largest project started was the new town of Kowarshah, the memorial plaque for which was unveiled on 25th August. The town, which will cost LD70 million, will have 2,000 homes for 10,000 people, and will include a supermarket, health centre, schools, nurseries, post office, police station, bank and care centres.

Two days later the Libyan news agency JANA reported that Jebel al Akhdar municipality has signed an LD14 million contract with a foreign company for the construction of 600 homes, a school, mosque and shopping centre at the north eastern Libyan town of Baydah. The development scheme is scheduled to be completed within 30 months.

Urban development projects are also reported to be under way in the towns of Agedabiya and Muradah. The Libyan news agency reported on 18th August that eight schools with 82 classrooms are being built in the two towns as well as two clinics.

Misrata, on the coast east of Tripoli, is another scene of rapid urban development. In late August a tender was put out for the construction of the second stage of the city's sewerage system. The work will involve the laying of over 100 kilometres of pipes, the establishment of a sewerage treatment plant and of four pumping stations.

New faculty planned for Al Fateh University

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya's mammoth expansion of its health care programme has created an enormous demand for skilled staff. At present many of the personnel running the health services are recruited abroad but Libya's planners are taking steps to ensure that the appropriate training is available to nationals. This was underlined in early October with the announcement of a tender for the construction of a new Faculty of Pharmacy at Tripoli's Al Fateh University. The faculty will comprise study and research laboratories, classrooms, offices and auditoria and will cover an area of about 40,000 square metres.



Ring road for Tripoli to ease traffic flow

THE RAPID rise in the standard of living in the Libyan Jamahiriya has brought with it an upsurge in car ownership, which in turn has created a challenge for city planners to maintain traffic flows.

In an attempt to ease traffic congestion, ring roads are being constructed around a number of the country's urban centres. The latest ring road project was announced on 24th September when it was disclosed that the Secretary for the Tripoli Municipality People's Committee had signed a contract with an unnamed foreign company to build a ring road in Tripoli. The road will include 14 intersections and four footbridges and the LD76 million project is to be completed within 30 months.

New information centre for Benghazi

A NEW information centre is to be opened in Benghazi. On 26th August Staff Major Abdul Salam Jalloud laid the foundation stone for the LD14 million project which will include filming and transmission sections, film processing and sound recording facilities, and an administrative building.

Cuba aids Libyan construction boom

TALKS HAVE been held in Havana between a Cuban delegation and a visiting delegation from the Jamahiriya on the expansion of co-operation between the two countries in construction. The Libyan delegation was headed by Mr Abdullah Mukhtar Ismael, Secretary of the Tobruk People's

Committee while the Cuban Minister in Charge of Construction Overseas, Mr Levi Farah, led the Cuban team. An agreement on construction co-operation was signed between the two states early last year and this has already borne fruit. Reporting the recent talks in Havana, Cuban radio said that there were now 1,300 Cuban construction workers in the Tobruk area alone, and that co-operation would expand in the coming years.

Electricity sector development

BABCOCK BRISTOL of the UK has a \$600,000 order to supply, install and commission steam turbine instrumentation and control equipment for the Benghazi 2 power station, reported *Middle East Economic Digest* on 26th September. The order was placed by the West German contractor Deutsche Babcock, which is not connected with the UK firm. Babcock Bristol, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the UK's Babcock International, has a contract with the Jamahiriya's Electricity Secretariat for electrical installation maintenance throughout Libya.

New food projects for self-sufficiency

WITH NATIONAL self-sufficiency in foodstuffs a major aim in the Libyan Jamahiriya, it was heartening news that agricultural production last year had risen by 8.5 per cent. Recently announced projects suggest that output will continue its dramatic increase in the years to come.

It was reported on 8th September that contracts had been signed for the establishment of 99 units for chicken production, 71 for turkey production and a similar number for rearing rabbits. The new units, which are

located throughout Libya, will have an annual production capacity of 15,366 tonnes of meat, 155 million eggs, 250 tonnes of turkey and 168,000 rabbits. At the same time it was reported that work is going ahead to complete a scheme for the production of 5 million birds a year on 20 sites totalling 1,500 hectares. The project includes incubators, fattening farms, an automatic slaughterhouse and a feed factory with a production capacity of 11 tonnes per hour.

Also in early September, the West German Kathmann company announced it had won a contract to build 42 poultry farms, valued at \$80-90 million. The firm has sub-contracted civil works to an Indian company.

Indian firms are also involved in other sectors of the Jamahiriya's agricultural development programme. In late September *Middle East Economic Digest* reported that a \$2.2 million contract for electrical work at the Misrata agricultural project had gone to Sterling Exports of India. The contract, for the Electricity Secretariat, is for the installation of 10.8 kV overhead transmission lines, with work to be completed in two years.

Italian firm to equip hospital

IN ITS first Libyan contract, Italy's OTE Biomedica has won a \$4.7 million contract to equip a military hospital near the Jamahiriya's capital, Tripoli. Ten trailers have left Italy loaded with surgical equipment, medical supplies and furniture for the hospital wards. The equipment should be installed by next January. The 400-bed hospital, which cost \$54 million, was built by Italy's Delma.

Libyan-Pakistan joint ventures imminent

THE PAKISTAN-Libya Holding Company, set up in 1978 with an initial capital of \$100 million, will start operations shortly and finance industrial ventures both in Libya and Pakistan, the company's managing director said on 14th September.

The two countries will contribute \$50 million each, of which they have already paid \$30 million, towards the capital. In Pakistan the Holding Company will give priority to utilising idle industrial capacity and to financing agro-industries, including fruit canning factories, with a view to increasing exports to the Arab homeland. In Libya the company will start joint ventures with Pakistani firms acting as consultants.

THE GREEN BOOK



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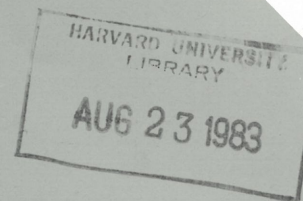
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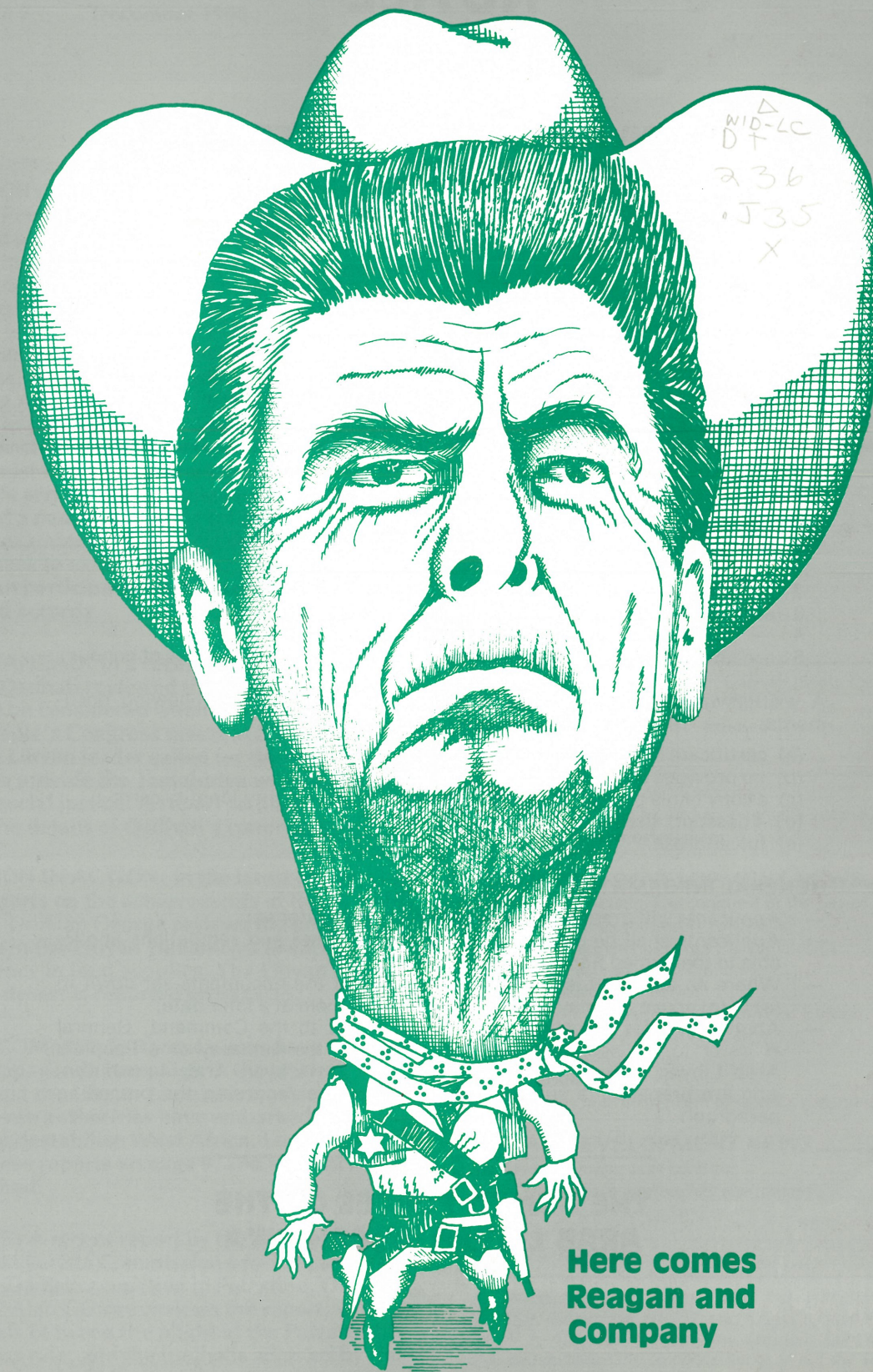
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